



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EXPO AUTHORITY SECURES JOBS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and City Councilman Herb J. Wesson, Jr. joined forces to ensure the passage of a Project Labor Agreement for the second phase of the Exposition Light Rail project. The PLA will secure jobs for local residents and contracts for small businesses as the County moves to invest a projected \$72 billion over 30 years in transportation projects. Both officials maintain that it is essential for local residents to reap the substantial employment and economic benefits of a rail line that passes through their neighborhoods and is paid for by their tax dollars.

“A Project Labor Agreement is a vital component of this historic expansion of transportation services,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “It would be unconscionable for local workers with the skills, abilities and experience necessary to complete these ambitious projects to not be employed to the greatest extent possible.”

Wesson concurred: “Only with a fair and equitable labor agreement can we be confident that the best interests of Los Angeles’ residents, business owners, workers and the entire local economy are being served,” said the Councilman.

The months-long effort to include local hiring requirements in the light rail project began in May 2010, initiated by both board members, when the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority approved a motion initiating the development of a Construction Careers Policy and a Project Labor Agreement.

Also, they directed the Chief Executive Officer to determine what elements or best practices from the successful Los Angeles Unified School District Small Business Boot Camp could be incorporated into the Expo Phase 2 program. The school district's eight-week boot camp, which provides an intensive, hands-on curriculum for small contractors seeking to hone their competitive edge, is held in wide regard throughout the region.

With today's action, the last elements of the PLA are in place; a final ratification of the formal agreement is scheduled to come before the board next month.

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